India) Regulations, 2000 (Notification 20/2000-RB dated 3.5.2000). As per the present policy, no other country/region attracts such specific restrictions. All proposals to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) are considered after necessary inter-ministerial consultations taking into account the sectoral policy and regulations as also strategic or defence related factors. In order to catalyse FDI, Government is making continuous efforts to make India an attractive destination for FDI in the region by providing an internationally competitive environment in terms of policy, procedures and institutions. The Government has also permitted access through the automatic route for FDI upto 100% in most sectors.

Conference on Combating Counterfeiting Strategy and Practice

1874. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of increase in the menace of counterfeiting, the various sectors of industry have demanded high priority to issue of intellectual property rights;

(b) if so, whether a Conference on Combating Counterfeiting Strategy and Practice was held at New Delhi recently;

(c) if so, the details of participants in the conference and outcome of the discussions held in the conference; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check such menace of counterfeiting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) In a Conference on "Combating counterfeiting"; organized at New Delhi from 21-22 January, 2003 by the Confederation of Indian Industry (Cll) in collaboration with the International Anti Counterfeiting Coalition (IACC), USA, various sectors of industry expressed concern over the menace of counterfeiting and its impact on the economy.

(c) Key people from the corporate sector, enforcement agencies Government, brand managers, R and D specialists, patent experts, policy makers participated in the Conference. The Conference highlighted issues involved in tackling counterfeiting both at policy and enforcement

levels and stressed the need to take up sector-specific issues, strengthen enforcement, upgrade technologies for preventing counterfeiting, chalk out strategies for industry for a synergistic approach to deal with counterfeiting and take voluntary action both at industry and Government levels. After deliberations, the Conference made recommendations:—

- > for a synergistic approach to fight the menace and devise a mechanism for sharing of joint responsibilities of industry and Government;
- > for organizing training modules to create awareness at all levels for target groups, namely consumers, industry, police, customs, judiciary and all other stakeholders;
- > to seek and promote international cooperation with anti-counterfeiting bodies like the International Anti Counterfeiting Coalition, Business Software Alliance, World Customs Organization, Global Anti Counterfeiting Group, International Trademark Association, Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau, the Anti-Counterfeiting Group etc;
- > for efficient and effective enforcement through establishment of Intellectual Property (IP) courts, better trained IP police force and cohesive public awareness;
- > for smooth coordination between industry and enforcement agencies;
- > for formation of multi-functional teams in industry with representatives from all interested groups including legal, corporate security, public affairs/consumer relations, sales and marketing, Governments and packaging developers.

(d) With a view to check the menace of counterfeiting, the Government has taken effective steps for modernizing and amending various legislations related to IPRs. In that direction, the Copyrights Act has been amended and new Trade marks and Design laws have been enacted to provide effective protection to the industry and the consumers. Penal provisions under the to-be-operationalised Trade Marks Act, 1999 have been enhanced to provide for effective deterrence. Certain offences have been made cognizable and the period of imprisonment further enhanced. In order to generate awareness among the public, users, enforcement agencies and the technical institutes, various programmes have been organized in different States about the effects of counterfeiting and its impact on the national economy.